

Accountability is key

In regards to Attorney William Haberstroh's remarks in the Altoona Mirror April 29, I am in agreement with him that the child welfare system is badly broken and in desperate need of repair.

What he failed to say was the child welfare problems in Blair County start with the Blair County courts. Furthermore, I do not agree that money and increased salaries of people in responsible positions is a fix-all. Accountability is. In most cases an individual who receives a substantial pay raise this year will feel they are underpaid the next year.

Since it is the nature of man not to be satisfied or have enough of anything materialistic, money cannot put dedication and responsibility in people who are in charge of protecting our children.

We have judges with salaries in excess of \$100,000 a year who refuse to get their cases right. There are court-appointed psychologists and psychiatrists involved with the child welfare system charging nearly \$100 an hour and absolutely refuse to work in the best interest of children.

We have court-appointed guardians (lawyers) charging in excess of \$60 an hour for protecting a child they negligently and callously watch deteriorate physically and mentally weekly.

While changing laws is a good start to fix the system, there needs to be accountability for people in position of protecting children, not excuses or cover-ups for their botches.

If a person in private employment makes a flippant or reckless mistake they get fired. When human lives are destroyed (especially defenseless children) through the botches of government employees they need to be severely prosecuted, not coddled.

Robert G. Kearns Jr.